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ABSTRACT

Interviews are the central focus of inquiry studies in the elementary school classroom described by an experienced teacher. The interview is the major source of new information and concepts. Through questions, discussions, role playing, and note taking, children make interviews a very active part of learning. Interviews help children see the common patterns of life. Chapter 1, "Listen in on an Interview," shows children participating in an actual interview of a first grade classmate's mother, who talks about her childhood in Puerto Rico. Chapters 2 through 4, "The Interview--Fulcrum of the Curriculum," "Reaching out to the Community," and "Strategies for Interviewing," detail how to choose interview subjects, how to formulate questions and conduct interviews, and how to extend the learning from interviews through activities involving different curriculum areas. Chapter 5, "Planning the Day," outlines a daily schedule, and shows how interviews fit into a typical schedule. Chapter 6, "Keeping the Concepts Alive," explores a year-long classroom study of people at work, showing how the learned concepts are kept alive after the interviews are over. Suggested readings include 48 titles for professional reading, 27 prose sources for children, and 27 sources on poetry, music, and food. Twelve resource organizations are listed. (SLD)

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